TO ALL THE

GOOD PEOPLE

OF

IRELAND.

Friendly and Seasonable Advice.

Friends, and Fellow Countrymen,

IN the Courſe of our unhappy Diſſentions, I have been a careful Obſerver of all that has paſſed. In the Debates I have not been intereſted: Animoſity has had no Place in my Breaſt; on whatever Side I have appeared, my Carriage has been moderate, and my Language modeſt. I am a Friend to Liberty, but at the ſame time a Friend to Government; the former I know without the latter cannot exiſt: To the Man that would inſult the one or oppreſs the other, I am equally an Enemy; if I had Authority I would diſcourage him, if I had Power I would oppoſe him, as far as Law would bear me out I would puniſh him: In this Habit of Mind I am qualified to give you Advice, other Things equal, there is a probability, I am better qualified, than any of thoſe who are daily writing to you.

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The Situation you are now in is very *Critical*, if proper Advantage is not made of it, *Dangerous*. There is a Rock before you, upon which the whole Ship, if it ſtrike, may be wrecked. I ſhudder to think of the violent Efforts of ſome Men to drive you upon it. To ſhun it, is the ſingle Point to which your Attention ſhould at this Time be turned. The Way to ſhun it, is to look before you, the leſs Retroſpect the more Chance for Safety. You are to conſider not what has been, but what is to be; not how the Parties have accuſed one another, but how they may be reconciled. If we have offended our Governors, by peaceable Obedience, their Favour may be recovered: If we have offended our Sovereign, who but they can intreat for us?

You have heard much of Grievances I own, but I may ſay, and appeal to yourſelves for the Truth of what I ſay, you have felt none: Was Evil intended, you have not been hurt: The Complainings have been loud, but no Injury or Damage has yet reached you. In ſuch Caſes, a good Citizen will judge not from what he hears, but from what he feels, the firſt may deceive him, the latter cannot. My Neighbour may ſpeak fair, and yet be a Knave, is that a Reaſon why I ſhould be a Fool: My own Senſe is a better Guide than another Man's Pen, for there is no Sophiſtry in Feeling.

When Evil comes, you may be told it will be too late to complain; in ſome Caſes it is, but the Caſe we are upon is an Exception to this Rule: By the Conſtitution of the Government you live under, a Remedy can never be wanting when Evil ariſes, and always to be applied with more Safety after than before. Means to prevent Evil too often bring it on, there is as little Prudence in tampering with the Political Body, as with the Natural; an able Practitioner will not attempt it in either. Look into Hiſtory for Proofs of this, and you will ſee Abundance. Our Fathers in 1640, felt Evils and provided Remedies; had

had they ſtopped there, they had done wiſely, but they imagined more than they felt, and provided Remedies for thoſe alſo. They ſet themſelves to correct not only what was wrong, but alſo what might be wrong: The Conſequence was, that by unſeaſonable tampering, they brought on the very Diſeaſe they dreaded, and when the Evil came, the Remedy provided was uſeleſs; it did not, it could not operate, becauſe the Power of applying it was taken out of the proper Hands.

The Source of our Diviſions, is neither your Buſineſs nor mine to enquire into; I doubt whether the Leaders of either Side have ever fairly told us, what raiſed the Contention between them; if they have not, the Man who has no immediate Intereſt of his own to urge him, is a Fool if he declare himſelf of either. If it be as one ſays, the National Repreſentative only are competent Judges; if as the other, none but themſelves are concerned to judge; both Ways, you are out of the Debate: It was unfriendly, it was cruel, it was wicked to call upon you to engage in the Quarrel; in ſober Truth you had nothing to do with it. Have the Men, who by ſuch furious, wild Methods, preſſed you, I may ſay, into their Service, requited you by any Kindneſs? You were ſaluted and complimented, you got Drink, and you got Drams: Have you not loſt more in Idleneſs, by the Neglect of Buſineſs and Trade? Are you in a better State now, than when theſe Diviſions began? Will your State improve and grow better, if they continue? Can they prove that they intended you any Good, or that any Good could poſſibly befal you, which ever Way they are to end? By Peace alone the Community can proſper, by Confuſion no Man can be a Gainer, who has any Thing to loſe. You are to aſk yourſelves then only this ſingle Queſtion: Have you any Thing that is dear to you, that you would be ſorry to loſe or to part with, Wife, Child, Friend, Holding, Money, Credit? *If you have? Be quiet.*

Even againſt the Miſcreants who deſerved it moſt, I would not call forth your Reſentment; they are preparing a Rod to whip themſelves; they are ſmarting already, under the Senſe, I believe, of their own Folly. Common Reputation has fixed the Load of this Guilt all upon one Man; whether it is right, I pretend not to ſay; but whether one or more are concerned; whoever they are, they are not your Friends, Experience will prove, they are as little their own: If the Man be falſely accuſed, he may, and he ſhould acquit himſelf publickly; if he is not, he deſerves the worſt that can befal him.

The Proofs of his Guilt, upon Suppoſition, that he is the Writer, are glaringly ſtrong, in all the Papers printed and diſperſed by the *Un——l Adv——r*. Is there in one of them the Sentiment or the Language of a good Subject, or a good Citizen? would any honeſt Man, any Man *who feared God, or honoured the King*, have a Hand either in the Writing or publiſhing what theſe Papers contain. Look over (for I would not put you to much or unneceſſary Trouble) the *Ad——ſer* only of *May* 31, conſider it well; by the Account there given, ſince the Day of his *Majeſty's Acceſſion*, there has been one uniform Plan to grind and to oppreſs, to plunder, pillage and to rob this Nation. By his Account every Chief Governor who in that Period has come among you, was ſent for this Purpoſe, had this particularly in his Inſtructions, and the worſt Men who could be found, culled out for the Execution. The Plot he tells you was the Miniſters, and *His Majeſty*, who, he ſays, had not Logic enough to reaſon upon the Premiſſes, conſented and inforced the Concluſion. Heavens! What a Detail! Nothing leſs indeed could deſerve the Epithets he beſtows upon them. God in his Mercy forgive the Man. But do not you, my Countrymen, be Partakers in his Guilt, nor be deluded by him: Is the Man who ſpeaks, and who acts thus, a *Patriot*? Give Things their proper Names, *Parricide* is his. Was he ever in

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your Regard? Give him up; *Reprobate to Grace*, abandoned he ought to be by Men!

What Proof my Friends has he given that theſe Things were as he has told them? has not your own Experience in every Article given him the Lie? ſince the Foundation of our Monarchy, had we ever a Prince more juſt and upright, more humane, tender and beneficent, than the preſent: Is his Virtue the Effect of Laws? look and view him in his foreign Dominions, where he is abſolute and bound by none; how beloved and how revered! uncontrouled by any Law, the Father of his People! the Guardian of their Rights! When did this Kingdom ever proſper and flouriſh, in the degree it has within the very period this Writer aſſigns? compare our preſent State with what it was, at his Majeſty's Acceſſion: Has there in that period been any Decay? any Decay of Property or of Liberty, of Arts or Induſtry, of Trade or Manufactures? on the contrary, have they not all proſpered even beyond our own fondeſt Expectations? and to whom pray, are we indebted for theſe Advantages? but to his Majeſty, to his Miniſters, and to theſe very chief Governors whom *this Libeller* inſults and vilifies: Have any of them acted amiſs? aſk this Man for I believe he can tell you, by whoſe means that happened, who it was that miſinformed, impoſed upon, led them aſtray, was ever any good propoſed for us, to which they did not concur? were any of them backward to help it on? did ever Man labour more affectionately to ſerve you thro' a long ſeries of Years, than even the laſt whom ſo many have ungratefully reviled? for his attachment to this Country, in his own, he got a *Name*: In his Legiſlative Capacity there he ever gave his Negative to any thing that could hurt us, his whole Weight, to every thing that could do us Good: Within that Period did ever any Scheme for our Advantage miſcarry, our Factions at home were the cauſe of that Miſcarriage.

You were amuſed at one time with *the Fate of your Linen Bill.* Loud was it ſounded in your Ears, that there was a Deſign by that to hurt you: * The Subject of the Complaint was Popular, but was it fairly or juſtly ſtated? The Man who gave the Alarum, who ſounded this Trumpet to Sedition, ſeems to have known nothing of the Facts; At a Meeting of many of the principal Dealers in that Buſineſs, he was contradicted, to his Face it was proved that falſe Facts had been advanced by him: His Obſervations were of a Piece, his Inſinuations were ungenerous, his Language highly indecent. A Charge of the moſt criminal Nature was laid: Againſt whom? he could not tell: But his Deſign was to have you believe, that your Governor, and they who acted in the neareſt Relation under him, were the Guilty: This without the leaſt degree of Evidence, any thing to raiſe or to juſtify a Suſpicion of their being concerned: Our Repreſentatives, to a Man know what I ſay to be true: That the Bill that went over was the reſult of free and deliberate Choice in themſelves, not of a Party but of the whole unanimous Body: That it was wiſe and ſalutary in its Deſign, that no Man had a Deſign, no Man had or could have an Intereſt to ſerve by the Alteration it received: The Publick was amuſed with a feigned Excuſe for the Alteration; by whom was it ſo amuſed? by themſelves; in that Shop it was probably forged, from whence it had vent, for I never heard of it from any other: Our Repreſentatives I ſay all know that when it returned altered and curtail'd, whoever was in Fault, our Governors were unconſcious of the Means, that the Earlieſt poſſible Notice was given of what had happened, that the Remedy was ſubmitted to their own Diſcretion, and the ſtrongeſt poſſible Aſſurances given, that the Govern-

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* See a Pamphlet intituled, *Facts and Obſervations, relative to the Fate of the Linen Bill.*

ment would co-operate to make the Remedy compleat. That to humour ſuch as either had, or pretended to have changed their Sentiments, the Bill was dropped, and a new one ſubſtituted, which ſet us back into the ſame inconvenient Situation we were in before, of which the Truſtees of our Linen Board had ſo long and ſo often complained :: This the very Men who laboured to deceive you then, who labour to deceive you ſtill, all know. This the very Man, who wrote that ſorry, ſtupid, rancorous Pamphlet knew alſo: But what avails Truth, when Men have an Intereſt in deceiving! or when thoſe who perhaps mean not to deceive will be the Dupes of thoſe who do; or when Intereſts are in View, that cannot be purſued but by our Diviſions.

Have we been divided my Countrymen; let us again be united: Have we been deceived, let us recover our Senſes, and guard againſt future Deception: I congratulate you upon the Proſpect of approaching Peace, and returning Harmony; the Fermentation is plainly abated, the Fever is happily cooled: The Delirious raving Fit for this Turn, I hope, is over: Our Excellent Governor in Concert with the Heads and Leaders wiſely conſulting how to reconcile them, and to knit together the diſjointed Members of the Body: A Plan of Union is before them, let us be *huſh*, every *petulant ſaucy Tongue be ſtopped*, let none by any frantic Wildneſs, break in to interrupt or diſturb them: All my Friends will be well if we be not wanting to ourſelves, we may mar, we cannot further the Deſign by interpoſing: Let not the *Leaven* of one Man's Wickedneſs ſour again the whole Lump: *Mark them who do*, or who would *cauſe Diviſions*, and if you find them out, give them a Mark of your *Abhorrence*: The ſevereſt Token of your Vengeance, whoſoever he be is the Man's due: He that is forwardeſt in this *Labour of Love*, he is your Friend, his Country's Friend, and the Friend of Mankind: If your

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Leaders, abate of their Pretenſions, if they recede from Terms in Warmth imprudently inſiſted on before, or indiſcreetly given out by thoſe who were not in the Secret of their Councils, Impute it to their Knowledge and to their Care, to their *Care of you* and of your Country's Safety, to their *Knowledge of its and of your Danger*: As to me, I write to you only, becauſe I Love you, I would pull you back from the Precipice into which you were near falling, I would ſnatch you from the Flames of a Fire, that if it raged on, would ſoon conſume you. Beware of lighting it up again, if you do, there is no telling where the deſtroying Conflagration may end. If you take this in good Part, I ſhall continue to adviſe you, if not, as I have no Motive, but the Hopes of furthering your Good, I ſhall deſiſt. Farewel.

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